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1
on critical Days

I have said all ~~for~~ diseases have their remissions
or intermissions. This is more evidently the
case with fevers. They are said to terminate
on certain days ^{by means of paroxysms} which have been called critical.
These days were first observed ^{in the mild climate}
of the climate of Greece, and Hippocrates
has left an account of them. They were
easily discerned in his practice, for he never
disturbed the operations of nature; But in
spite of the changes which climate induces
in our fevers, and artificial modes of
cure they are still to be seen, more especially
in the fevers of this country.

I have said Dr Senac has ^{supposed} the tertian
to be the primary & original form of fever.
Continual fevers begin with this form &
retain it ~~to the~~ on the 3. 5. 7. 9. 11. days.

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after which they lose it, & proceed in the
Quartan form to the 14. 17. & 20. — After
the 20th it is said they terminate on the
27, 35, & 42nd days — but of these septenary
periods, I believe there are no proofs.

The bilious fever in all its grades cer-
tainly observes a regard to the critical days
that have been mentioned. That the yellow
fever ~~is~~ in this city generally terminated
on a tertian day — that is on the 3rd 5th or 14th
under all the modes of its treatment.
It conformed with the same regularity
to those days in Virginia in 1741 according
to Desmarchell, nor should ~~we~~ we reject
critical days because these fevers occasionally
terminate
on even days, for the Crisis as Dr Jackson
has judiciously observed, often terminates
on a critical ^{or odd} day, when death, or a
favourable Crisis does not occur till the
next day or ^{the} even day. In the former

V Again - ~~but~~ Of 280 cases of fever ^{ch.} w.

Dr Wm Brown attended in the Infirmary
of Edin² 70 of them terminated on critical
days, which is more than $1/2$ - ~~but~~
Hippocrates says $2/3^d$ of 163 terminated on
critical days. This difference in the proportion
of crises ^{in the latter instance} arises from the uniform character
imposed upon fevers by the Climate of Greece,
and from Hippocrates not interrupting the
operations of nature. Dr Hoffman who practised =

~~The whole course of a fever has been~~
~~compared to the annual revolution of the earth.~~
~~Daily paroxysms to the earth's diurnal~~
~~revolutions.~~ Dr Hoffman who practised =
~~Dr Astor says of 24 patients~~

Case the time of dying is only protracted,
and in the latter, the recovery is often un-
perceptible from the extreme debility left
by the fever. —

Out of 60 continual fever Dr Jackson
tells us in his Acc^t of the Diseases of La^r
— moria, 10 terminated on the 3^d day,
10 on the 5th, — 20 on the 7th, — 10 on the
9th, 5 on the 11th, and 2, on the 17th — in
all 47 ended on critical days, & all of
them, except One, ended favourably. On
even days, or days not critical 3 termi-
nated on the 13th, 1 on the 6th, 6 on the
8th & 1 on the 10th all of which ended
in death. By the remaining two nothing is said.

V From all these facts, there is evidently
a foundation for a belief in ^{the} critical
days of Hippocrates. The present modes

that died under his care
~~he attended in a plurious 4 died on the~~
~~4th 3 on the 5th 3 on the 8th 2 on the~~
~~11th 1 on the 14th & 2 on the 4th or 5th~~
~~Deducting the two doubtful ones - 7 only~~
~~died on ~~add~~ event~~

~~At this~~
= in a Northern Climate observed the following
issue in certain fevers which he has named.
An ephemera he says terminates in 24
hours. A typhus ^{without local affection} fever in 4 or 7 days. A mild
pneumony on the 4th ^{or 5th} or 7th. A severe Pneumony
on the 7th or 14th ^{and frequently in} ~~generally in~~
Sweetened diarrhoea an erupition. A 2^d
putrida - on the 7. 11. or 14th & generally in
by the sweats or a diarrhoea. Ardent fevers
in 7. or 14 days. The plague on the 4th 7th 11th
& the putridal state of fever on the 7. 11. &
14th days.

The usual signs of the crisis of a fever =
are 1 sweats diffused ~~generally~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~whole~~

of practice in fivers⁴ which consists in destroy-
ing the operations of nature as much as
possible in them, has led to treat them
with too much neglect. ⁴ But several
important advantages may be derived
from an attention to them.

1 In continual fivers or protracted
febriles (for such are all continued fivers)
where the remissions are not observable, or
not attended to, the presumption is that
the fever will be in greater force (to use a
military phrase) on a critical day, than
on any other. This force may be internal,
or ~~centrif~~ centripetal, and tho' not attended
with signs of violence to the system, may
do immense mischief to the viscera.

— On these days then evacuations
~~particularly~~ ~~such as~~ ~~letting~~ ~~the~~ should be used

V When they do not, the more feeble ~~oppos-~~
exacerbations may be assisted by Remedies
calculated to produce a Crisis, or to weaken

a disease - particularly Sweating. 2. ^{By atten-}
ding to the days on which fevers remit, we may give purges
with more advantage.

= will be mentioned under the head of the
Prognosis. I shall only remark here that
fevers sometimes terminate without any
perceptible evacuations of any kind from
the body. Dr Sydenham describes this to the
morbid matter which produces fevers being so
assimilated with the healthy fluids as to destroy
its activity. But this ^{is not} ~~cannot~~ be the case. The
discharges which take place ⁱⁿ ~~at~~ the Crisis of
fevers are ~~not~~ neither acid, nor morbid. They
are the effects of a general relaxation of the system
by the restoration of healthy action in all its parts.
~~The absence of these discharges arises the~~

in preference to using ⁵ these ^{it} on days not
critical - when the symptoms of violent
action require them. ^{& V} But +

✓ If where any doubt is entertained ^{of the}
Use of Bark, or ^{be} Stimulants, it will ^{be} safest
to give them on a non critical day, that
is, when the fever is weakest in force. If
they do no ~~less~~ good, they will do less
harm on that day, than on any

Other. ~~But~~
+ 3. ^{be} ~~By attending to critical~~ ^{be} more severe on an
even, than on an odd, or critical day,
then dangerous all your skill, and all
the power of medicine. The fever in this
case ~~is~~ ^{extremely dangerous,} and unless weak-
-ned ~~on the~~ before the 5th day generally
ends ~~in~~ in death, as Dr Jackson's ex-
-perience fully verifies. ✓

— apparent absence of these discharges arises from this being conveyed out of the system so slowly as to escape observation. Such fevers are said to taper off. When they terminate on a critical day, they are said to snap off.

But a crisis does not always follow general sweats nor a sediment in the urine. Morgagni describes a fever in which general, & easy sweats ushered in death, & his Dr Pringle says he saw Cases of Camp fever in which death followed a sediment in the urine.

By attending to the Days on which fevers
 most commonly terminate, we may
 keep up the hope & confidence of our pa-
 -tients, ~~for~~ and establish our Character
 for judgement by predicting the day in
 which they will recover. These days alter
 with the season. ^{in they are} The Aug: on the 3rd Sep:
 3, 15, October 5, &c: th in ^{our climate} bilious fevers in

I ^{formerly} mentioned the opinions & observa-
 -tions of Dr Balfour on the influence of the
full & change of the moon ^{on fevers.} He has proved that
 the fevers of Bengal ~~concern~~ are subject to
 exacerbations three days before, & three days
after the ~~of~~ those two periods of the moon.
 - He proves further, that ~~from~~ the attacks &
relapses of fevers occur at those periods, more
 frequently than at the intermediate periods.
 - These ^{phenomena} ~~changes~~ were observed by Dr Lind in
 the Bengal fever of 1762. He ascribes them to

+ In our pathology I ascribed these attacks & exacerbations
& relapses of fevers ^{to} the influence of light or darkness upon
the body from presence or absence of the moon, Remedy of Air
also. Active medicine should be given on

that day.

2 To guard more carefully against
existing causes on the lunar days
than on any others,

3 To guard more carefully against relapses
on those days, than on the intermediate
days. —

4 To give tonics, and preventives more
liberally on days not lunar, than
on lunar days - for debility is then
favourable to their more successful exhibition.

11 I am surprised at the opinion given by Dr
Lind of the ~~inf~~ cause of lunar influence upon
fever when after the fact ~~he~~ relates of the
relapses that took place in ~~the~~ the fever which
he describes from an eclipse of the moon.
See above +